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the limitation on the method claim (Invention II) is to the application of this materially distinct product made in accordance with the product claims (Invention I). For this reason, Applicant believes that the process for applying the product as claimed cannot be practiced with another materially different product that does not require the elements of the broadest product claim. Having specific embodiments reflected in dependent product claims does not render them restrictable from the broader claimed method of applying. Under these circumstances, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction for examination purposes be withdrawn.

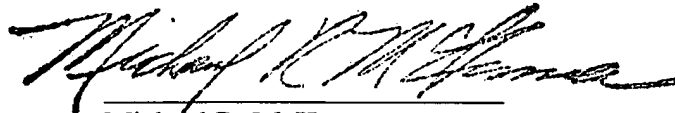
Applicant elects Group I of claims 17-43 and 50-52. To this Group the examiner has suggested that the following patentability distinct species of the claimed invention exists: Species A: Figures 7-8; and Species B: Figures 10-11. Applicant traverses these species distinctions for the reason that at least claims 50-51 are generic for a means for reducing pressure, friction, and shear with an array of removable devices, as shown in both Figures 7 and 8 and Figures 10 and 11. Nonetheless, Applicant elects Species A (Figs. 7- 8) for prosecution on the merits. Upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant requests consideration of claims to additional species as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

Applicant's election is made with traverse, principally for the reason that the basis for the distinction is incorrect. Applicant's attorney regrets that he was not available for the telephone call of December 16, 2004.

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In action on the merits of all the claims on the Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 2-10-05.

Date: February 10, 2005 Signed: Ruth Zah Lev